

**Listing of Claims:**

1.     **(Previously Presented)** A method of monitoring for availability of a system function in a computer system, comprising the steps of:

storing, in a database of said computer system, for the system function monitored for availability, respective information which describes conditions under which said availability of the system function are to be assessed as existing or no longer existing; and

utilizing said information, when a change in a state of a component of said computer system has taken place or is intended to take place, to assess whether said change that has taken place results, or said change that is intended to take place would result, in a change in terms of the availability of the system function.

2.     **(Previously Presented)** A method of monitoring for availability of a system function in a computer system, comprising the steps of:

marking, in a database of said computer system, component mappers for components which contribute to said availability of the system function; and

utilizing said marked component mappers, when a change in a state of a component has taken place or is intended, to assess whether said change in state that has taken place results, or said intended change in state would result, in a change in said availability of the system function.

3. **(Previously Presented)** A method of monitoring for availability of a system function in a computer system, comprising the steps of:

recording a respective current functional state of a computer system component for said computer system component in the database;

recording, by said database, for each computer system component, whether said component contributes to said availability of the system function monitored for availability, and, if so, for which system function or system functions said component contributes to said availability; and

assessing, when a change in a state of a component of said computer system has taken place or is intended, using data stored in said database for other computer system components to assess whether said availability of the system function monitored for availability changes or would change as a result of such a change.

4. **(Previously Presented)** A method of monitoring for availability of a system function in a computer system, comprising the steps of:

marking, using a stipulation regarding which system function is monitored for availability, among components of said computer system which are mapped in a database, those components which are necessary for said availability of said system function;

marking, in addition, a respective state of said components of said computer system which are mapped in the database for said components; and

assessing, when a change in a component state has taken place or is intended, whether said change results or would result in a change in availability of said system function.

5. **(Previously Presented)** The method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising the step of:

storing, by said database stores, for each system function regarded as being relevant to availability, information which describes conditions under which said availability of a system function is to be assessed as existing or no longer existing.

6. **(Previously Presented)** An availability monitoring component in a computer system, comprising:

a database; and

system components wherein, when a change in a state of one of said components of said computer system has taken place or is intended, said computer system assessing, using information stored in said database, whether said change in state changes or would change an availability of a system function, said database, for this purpose, indicating for each data map for a component whether a mapped component contributes to said availability of a system function, and, if so, to which system function or system functions contribute to said availability of a system function.

7. **(Previously Presented)** The availability monitoring component as claimed in claim 6, wherein said availability monitoring component additionally makes said assessment based on particular conditions which are stored in said database for each system function regarded as being relevant to availability.

8. **(Previously Presented)** A computer system, comprising:

a stipulator that stipulates for said computer system which system function is to be monitored for availability;

a component map which, for a component, records in a database whether said component is at all necessary for a system function monitored for availability and for which system function it is necessary, and which also records for said component its respective functional state; and

an assessor which uses said data recorded in said database made in a component map to assess whether a change in a state of a component which has taken place or is intended to take place has resulted or would result in a change in an availability of said system function.

9. **(Previously Presented)** The method as claimed in claim 3, further comprising the step of:

storing, by said database stores, for each system function regarded as being relevant to availability, information which describes conditions under which said availability of a system function is to be assessed as existing or no longer existing.

10. **(Previously Presented)** The method as claimed in claim 4, further comprising the step of:

storing, by said database stores, for each system function regarded as being relevant to availability, information which describes conditions under which said availability of a system function is to be assessed as existing or no longer existing.